

U.S. Application No. 09/937,163  
Response to Office Action Mailed November 26, 2003

### LISTING OF CLAIMS

#### Claims 1 – 15 (cancelled)

16. **(currently amended)** A method of producing a laminated package with an opening that is sealed by a tear-off strip, said method comprising the steps of:

punching out said opening in a packaging material;

coating said packaging material at least in the area of said opening;

creating a package sleeve from said packaging material;

conveying said package sleeve onto a ~~non-rotating~~ mandrel of a mandrel wheel upstream from a filling machine for filling said laminated package so that said opening in said package sleeve is oriented outward; and

attaching said tear-off strip to said opening in said package sleeve,

wherein said tear-off strip is attached at said mandrel of said mandrel wheel.

17. **(previously presented)** A method according to Claim 16, wherein said package sleeve is conveyed to said filling machine in such a way that its opening points outward across the working direction of said filling machine.

18. **(previously presented)** A method according to Claim 16, wherein said package sleeve is rotated about its longitudinal axis by approximately 90°

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between a magazine for accommodating prefabricated package sleeves on said filling machine and the location where said tear-off strip is attached.

19. **(previously presented)** A method according to Claim 16, wherein said mandrel wheel is driven in cycles and has at least two mandrels; and wherein said tear-off strip is applied using at least one welding device which is inserted between said two mandrels and is retracted again after said tear-off strip has been welded.
20. **(previously presented)** A method according to Claim 16, wherein said tear-off strip or a pouring element is applied upstream from an aseptic station of said filling machine.
21. **(previously presented)** A method according to Claim 16, wherein said tear-off strip or a pouring element is attached by welding.
22. **(previously presented)** A method according to Claim 21, wherein said tear-off strip or said pouring element is attached by ultrasonic welding or high-frequency welding.
23. **(previously presented)** A method according to Claim 16, wherein said tear-off strip or a pouring element is attached by gluing.

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24. **(previously presented)** A method according to Claim 16, wherein said tear-off strip or a pouring element is pulled off from a supply roll having a plurality of tear-off strips or pouring elements.

25. **(previously presented)** A method according to Claim 24, wherein said tear-off strip or said pouring element is conveyed by means of feed rollers and is detached from said supply roll by a cutting device.

26. **(previously presented)** A method according to Claim 16, wherein said tear-off strip consists of a tear-resistant aluminum strip.

27. **(previously presented)** A method according to Claim 16, wherein said filling machine is a filling machine having multiple lanes.

28. **(previously presented)** A laminated package having an opening that is sealed by a tear-off strip, as produced by the method of Claim 16.

29. **(currently amended)** A method of producing a laminated package with an opening that is sealed by a tear-off strip, said method comprising the steps of:

punching out said opening in a packaging material;

coating said packaging material at least in the area of said opening;

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creating a package sleeve from said packaging material;  
conveying said package sleeve onto a ~~non-rotating~~ mandrel of a mandrel wheel upstream from a filling machine for filling said laminated package so that said opening in said package sleeve is oriented outward; and  
attaching said tear-off strip to said opening in said package sleeve,  
wherein said package sleeve is rotated about its longitudinal axis by approximately 90° between a magazine for accommodating prefabricated package sleeves on said filling machine and the location where said tear-off strip is attached.

30. **(previously presented)** A method of producing a laminated package with an opening that is sealed by a tear-off strip, said method comprising the steps of:

punching out said opening in a packaging material;  
coating said packaging material at least in the area of said opening;  
creating a package sleeve from said packaging material;  
conveying said package sleeve onto a mandrel of a mandrel wheel driven in cycles having at least two mandrels upstream from a filling machine for filling said laminated package; and  
attaching said tear-off strip to said opening in said package sleeve,  
wherein said tear-off strip is applied using at least one welding device which is inserted between said two mandrels and is retracted again after said tear-off strip has been welded.

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31. **(currently amended)** A method of producing a laminated package with an opening that is sealed by a tear-off strip, said method comprising the steps of:

punching out said opening in a packaging material;

coating said packaging material at least in the area of said opening;

creating a package sleeve from said packaging material;

conveying said package sleeve onto a ~~non-rotating~~ mandrel of a mandrel wheel upstream from a filling machine for filling said laminated package so that said opening in said package sleeve is oriented outward; and

attaching said tear-off strip to said opening in said package sleeve,

wherein said tear-off strip is attached with the help of an anvil when said package sleeve is in the region of a pocket cell of a pocket conveyor.